

REMARKS

This supplements the Response To Office Action dated September 25, 2009. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 13 to 15, 17, 18 and 22 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 18 and 22 are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies and thoughtful treatment accorded Applicant's representative during the October 20, 2009 telephonic interview. During the interview, the Examiner tentatively indicated that the foregoing amendments might overcome the Anderson reference.

During a followup telephonic interview conducted on October 29, 2009, the Examiner advised that he had turned up a new reference. The new reference is U.S. Patent No. 6,396,507 (Kaizuka). In Applicant's view, Kaizuka is not pertinent.

The claims herein generally concern the use of an image search apparatus to search for images. A plurality of images is stored. Partial images included in the respective stored images are stored in correspondence with the respective stored images. Features of the stored partial images are stored in correspondence with the respective stored partial images. A feature to be used as a search query is received. A searched image including a partial image containing a feature corresponding to the search query is searched for, the partial image being different from the searched image. The searched image is displayed, the included partial image containing the feature corresponding to the search query is enlarged, and the enlarged partial image is composed on top of the displayed searched image. The displayed searched image is different from the enlarged partial image.

By virtue of enlarging the partial image containing the feature corresponding to the search query, the partial image is emphasized for the user, who is therefore able to grasp it more readily.

Applicant submits that Kaizuka is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the notion of enlarging a partial image that corresponds to a search query, and composing the enlarged partial image onto a displayed searched image.

More particularly, Kaizuka is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of receiving a feature as a search query, searching for a searched image, the searched image including the partial image containing a feature corresponding to the search query, the partial image being different from the searched image, displaying the searched image, enlarging the included partial image containing the feature corresponding to the search query, and composing the enlarged partial image on top of the displayed searched image, wherein the displayed searched image is different from the enlarged partial image.

Kaizuka is seen to disclose a system for zooming an image. A portion of image data is extracted in accordance with a request from a client machine. When a request for enlarging a partial image is issued from the client side, only image data in the requested partial region is dynamically extracted on a server and transferred.

Thus, Kaizuka is believed to disclose enlargement of a portion of an image designated by a user.

On the other hand, the claims herein define enlarging a partial image that corresponds to a search query, and composing the enlarged partial image onto a displayed searched image. In particular, a feature to be used as a search query is received, and a

searched image including a partial image containing a feature corresponding to the search query is searched for. The searched image is displayed. The included partial image containing the feature corresponding to the search query is enlarged composed on top of the displayed searched image.

In contrast, Kaizuka is believed to disclose user designation of a portion of an image, and enlargement of the user-designated portion of the image. Kaizuka is believed to be silent on enlargement of a partial image that corresponds to a search query, and composition of the enlarged partial image onto a displayed searched image.

Therefore, Kaizuka is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the notion of enlarging a partial image that corresponds to a search query, and composing the enlarged partial image onto a displayed searched image.

More particularly, Kaizuka is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of receiving a feature as a search query, searching for a searched image, the searched image including the partial image containing a feature corresponding to the search query, the partial image being different from the searched image, displaying the searched image, enlarging the included partial image containing the feature corresponding to the search query, and composing the enlarged partial image on top of the displayed searched image, wherein the displayed searched image is different from the enlarged partial image.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due. However, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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